VBO Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is The VBO?
VBO (Virtual Business Owners) is a new partnership of the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Navy and Marine Corps Spouse Employment Program. This VBO and LIFELines Initiative measurably increases career opportunities (options) for Navy and Marine Corps spouses, and improves the economic well-being for Navy and Marine Corps families. VBO delivers an interactive online environment (through real time seminars) where military spouses can learn and access business resources relating to starting, growing, and managing a virtual business in cyberspace.

2. Is the VBO initiative only open to Navy and Marine Corps Spouses?
While VBO is a partnership of the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Navy and Marine Corps Spouse Employment Program, it is open to spouses of all branches to include reservists, retirees and veterans.

3. Who should participate in VBO?
- The serious entrepreneurial minded spouse
- Spouses with young children
- Spouses with special needs family members
- Spouses interested in telecommuting from home
- Spouses in career transition and exploring career options
- Spouses in remote locations with limited employment opportunities
- Spouses who are physically challenged and unable to work outside the home

4. I'm interested in participating in the VBO real time seminars, how do I register?
Registering for a VBO real time seminar is easy; simply visit the VBO homepage (http://www.lifelines2000.org/vbo) for dates and times.

5. Where is the VBO real time seminars held?
VBO seminars are conducted entirely online in a virtual classroom.

6. What are the program prerequisites?
Participants **must** have a general knowledge of how to operate a computer, access to the Internet, and a willingness to commit to attending all four seminars.

7. What is the time span for each seminar?
Each VBO real time seminar last an hour in duration.

8. I'm a spouse that works outside the home but am very interested in starting my own business. Is there an evening session for the VBO real time seminars?
Absolutely! There are presently two (2) sessions being offered, an afternoon session (2pm Eastern Standard Time) and an evening session (9pm Eastern Standard Time). To learn more about VBO real time seminar dates and times visit the main VBO homepage at: http://www.lifelines2000.org/vbo.

9. What are the computer system requirements for the VBO real time seminars?

For an IBM compatible:
Pentium II 266 MHz processor or faster
64 megabytes of RAM
Windows 95/98/ME/NT/2000/XP
20 megabytes of available disk space on your hard drive
Soundcard with speakers and microphone or headset
28.8 kbps or higher Internet connection
Internet Explorer 4.0 (or higher) or Netscape 4.7 (or higher)

For a MAC:
Mac OS 9.0, 9.1, 9.2, Mac OS X 10.1 or later
G3 233 MHz or better.
64 megabytes of RAM for OS 9, and; 128 megs for OS X and above
20 megabytes of available hard drive space
Stuffit Expander
Soundcard with speakers and microphone or headset
28.8 kbps or higher Internet connection
Internet Explorer 4.0 (or higher)

10. I'm located in a region that does not allow me to participate in either session. Is there another way for me to participate in learning how to start, grow, and manage my own virtual business in cyberspace?
Absolutely! The VBO seminars have also been developed as self-paced modules that are accessible 24/7 regardless of your geographic location. To access the self-paced modules, visit the main VBO homepage at:
http://www.lifelines2000.org/vbo, then follow the 2 part registration process (**see below**):

Step No. 1
Register for VBO
Community Access

Step No. 2
Register for Self-
Paced Seminar

Note Regarding Self-Paced Seminars – it is recommended that individuals interested in taking the self-paced seminars have:
- ? a passion for being their own boss
- ? a general knowledge of the type of business they wish to launch
- ? a comfort level for studying and working alone

? a comfort level for receiving mentoring via VBO message boards and email

11. I'm not ready at this point to start a business but am interested in taking the real time seminars. How will taking the seminars benefit me career wise?
Great question! Technologies such as always on high speed and wireless Internet access, email, laptops, personal digital assistants (PDA), cell phones, and two-way pagers make it possible for individuals to work literally anytime and from anyplace. VBO real time seminars not only prepare spouses to start their own virtual business, but also keep you on the cutting edge of today's latest technology. Telecommuting is a growing trend among federal agencies and private sector employers; participation in the VBO real time seminars positions you as an "excellent candidate" for telework programs and adds marketing punch to your professional resume.

12. What is the cost for taking the VBO real time or self-paced seminars?
Both seminars are free to military spouses.

13. I have speakers but no microphone. Can I still participate in the VBO real time seminars?
You sure can! A microphone enables you to communicate by voice. Participants without microphones are able to communicate using the direct text messaging feature of the seminar classroom. Speakers enable you to hear interaction between seminar leader, guest experts and other participants.

14. Who do I contact if I'm unable to participate in the seminars I registered for?
Thanks for asking! If you are unable to participate for whatever reason, you should send email to the VBO Site Manager as soon as possible: vparham@vsscyberoffice.com . (*See VBO Participant Guide Cancellation Policy*)

Thank you for reviewing our frequently asked questions. If your question was not addressed in this list feel free to submit your question online at: http://www.lifelines2000.org/vbo/module/fbk/fbk_default.asp. Until next time happy virtual officing!

Warmest regards,

Victoria Parham, VBO Seminar Leader & Site Mgr
Website: http://www.lifelines2000.org/vbo |
Email: http://www.lifelines2000.org/vbo/module/fbk/fbk_default.asp
"Empowering Military Spouses to Entrepreneurial Success"